

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH AND
SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

JULY 7, 2014

In 1994, the National Conference on Weights and Measures established the gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE) as the official retail unit of sale for compressed natural gas (CNG) for motor vehicle use. A GGE represents an amount of CNG which contains the approximate energy content of a gallon of gasoline. Using Gallon Equivalent standards enables consumers to make quick and easy price comparisons between natural gas and conventional fuels.

In September of 2014, California Assembly Bill 1907 was introduced by Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas to establish the GGE and Diesel Gallon Equivalent (DGE) as the legal units of sale for natural gas motor fuel. This legislation passed and was subsequently signed into law. Nine other state governments have enacted similar laws in support of GGE and DGE standards for natural gas for motor vehicle use. The American Gas Association, America's Natural Gas Alliance, the American Trucking Association, the Natural Gas Vehicle Association of America, the National Association of Convenience Stores and the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America all support use of gallon equivalent standards.

In recent years natural gas motor fuel use has expanded into the medium and heavy-duty vehicle markets which traditionally use diesel and not gasoline. With that in mind, the Clean Vehicle Education Foundation, in conjunction with the natural gas vehicle industry, submitted a request to the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) in 2013 to adopt a standard definition of a diesel gallon equivalent (DGE).

However, last year the NCWM announced a recommendation to deny the DGE proposal, and to repeal the previously adopted GGE standard. This is scheduled to be voted on in July 2015. If adopted, this recommendation would force retailers to sell natural gas motor fuel in pounds and deprive them of a gallon equivalent standard, which is in direct conflict with California law.

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WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a letter to the California Secretary of Agriculture and the Executive Director of the National Conference on Weights and Measures to:

1. Express strong support for the retention of gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE) standards as the official unit of sale for natural gas for light duty vehicles; and
2. Support of the establishment of Diesel Gallon Equivalent (DGE) standard as the official unit of sale for natural gas for medium and heavy duty vehicles nationwide.

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